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Highs and Lows of Old Man River

**Monday,
January 7, 2002:**

Driftwood hangs high and dry on a mooring cell on the East Riverfront of the Mississippi River. Exactly seven months earlier on June 7th, the swollen river crested at 3 feet above flood stage, leaving the driftwood lodged as a souvenir when the high water receded. As the photograph illustrates, the wide seasonal fluctuations of the Mississippi River present a number of challenges to the District's navigation and flood damage reduction missions. Are we up to meeting the challenges?

Find out for yourselves.

story continued on page 3



Commander's Perspective



COL Michael R.
Morrow, Commander

The cover picture on this month's *Esprit* is amazing. It speaks volumes about the mighty Mississippi, the river that both divides the eastern and western halves of our great nation and serves as one of America's greatest environmental and transportation treasures. It tells without words, of a river that rises and falls more than 30 feet during the normal course of seasonal events – and much more at unusual extremes. And it makes me pause to consider the people and the superb work they perform daily as the river's panorama unfolds at our front door.

The Mississippi is a dominant force in the lives of the District's approximately 3 million citizens, and indeed, millions more throughout its valley that extends from nearly the Canadian Border to the Gulf of Mexico. But the river normally enters their thoughts only when acts unusual – when floods threaten property and

lives, or when low water hampers navigation, recreation or environmental concerns.

While the Corps and District have critical and highly visible roles when the river is at either extreme, we have an ongoing mission – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. A substantial number of people here in downtown St. Louis as well as at our other District locations are always on watch as the river and other parts of the system fluctuate between high and low levels.

They maintain safe navigation and prevent or reduce flood damage to surrounding land and population centers. And of course, they do this in such a manner as to best protect sensitive environments, popular recreation facilities and the multitude of other – often competing – interests.

They monitor the river, the environment and the weather. They utilize our ability to store or release water to stabilize the Mississippi's attempts either to run wild or to barely run at all. They plan and oversee levee construction that protects farms, homes, businesses and transportation corridors. They meet and greet visitors at our lakes and parks, helping them to experience firsthand these interrelated elements of our mission.

It is not everyday that the Corps in the St. Louis District is in the news, fighting floods or squeezing out the last drop of navigational capability from the river. But it is everyday that we are doing our job so that the situation in, on and around the river remains as stable as possible. And at all times we maintain our readiness to act correctly and decisively when the

river again exerts her efforts to re-earn the title, "Mighty," as surely she will again and again in the future.

I am proud of the job we do and the people who do it every day. I am proud even though what we do often gets so little notice – it just doesn't seem to be news when people are so good and routinely do such a great job. And I am proud that when the Mississippi takes it into her mind to test our readiness and resolve, I know that you will well answer the challenge.

You all should share this pride. You are all excellent and essential parts of our ongoing success story. The way you do your job is how you each contribute to the safety and strength of our region and nation. Thank you for doing what you do and for doing it so well.

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St. Louis District®

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All in a Year's Work: The

highs and lows of Old Man River present a number of challenges to the District.

Don't like the weather in St. Louis? Well, hang around for a few hours and it will change. We have all heard this old adage about the unpredictable nature of the weather in St. Louis. Much the same can be said of river levels in the region. Think the river is too high? Ahhh, just wait 'til the dog days of August, she'll drop. Think the river is too low? What you talkin' about Willis, a good downpour will cure that.

Need proof? Consider this: On January 13th of last year the Mississippi River on the St. Louis gage was at -1.5 feet. On February 28th, the river was at 26.83 feet, a swing of 28.33 feet in 44 days. Fourteen days later the river had dropped to 11.52 feet, only to rise back to 25.81 feet five days after that. Wild fluctuations in the Mississippi River are commonplace, particularly on the Middle Mississippi. But the stages reflected above are well within the norms. These fluctuations, whether within the norms or at the extremes, present a number of challenges to the District's navigation and flood control missions.

Navigation

Sediment is the main obstacle to the District's mission to provide a safe, dependable and minimum 9-foot navigation channel. Wherever a natural body of water exists, associated sediments interact with and sometime impede the flow of water. On the Middle Mississippi, dredging offers a temporary solution for sediment buildup, while channel improvement structures, such as dikes and chevrons, use the river's natural forces to reshape the main navigation channel.

Basically, the District's river engineers design channel improvements to function between 10 and 20 feet on the St. Louis gage. Between these levels, the river's energy

performs most of the work—that is, the river maintains itself with the aid of channel improvement structures. To have any impact above 20 feet is either unnecessary or cost prohibitive.

"As the river drops below 10 feet on the St. Louis gage, it starts to lose its energy and its desire to work," says Claude Strauser, Chief of Hydrologic & Hydraulics Branch. "When it drops to 5 feet, it becomes a downright lazy river and very little self-maintenance takes place. By the time it reaches zero on the gage, the river has done packed its bags and gone on R&R." Yet constant fluctuations in river levels can wreak havoc on the channel and efforts to maintain it. According to Dave Busse, Chief of Potomology, "With each fluctuation on the river, we are left with a new river bed. The river out there today is not the same river that was out there last month."

While it would appear that higher river levels help navigation by providing a wider and deeper channel, the aftermath of high water can in some instances pose problems. Busse noted, "High water, in itself, usually does not pose any problems for channel maintenance, unless it is followed by a rapid decent. "As a river's velocity increases, so does the sediment load. If stages fall out quickly and the river loses its kinetic energy in too rapid a fashion, sediment is deposited where it may. This could lead to new shoals and uncharted sandbars." The only way to alleviate these problems is to allow time for the channel improvement structures and the river energy to reshape the channel or to resort to maintenance dredging.

Flood Damage Reduction

At a quick glance, seasonal fluctuations in river levels appear only to pose challenges to the District's flood damage reduction system during periods of high water. For instance a 100-year rated levee needs to be built high enough to hold back a 100-year

flood and strong enough to manage the forces exerted by such a flood, which may lead to underseepage. But certainly, seasonal fluctuations have no impact on the District's flood control system when the river remains in its banks. Or do they?

"On the surface, that statement appears to be true," says Joan Stemler, a water control manager with ED-HP(W) "However, levees represent only half of the equation in our flood damage reduction system. Reservoirs represent the other half of the equation. How we manage the reservoirs is greatly impacted by the elasticity of natural hydrographs, maybe not so much on the Mississippi River, but definitely on its tributaries."

The District's flood damage reduction system, particularly on tributaries and at reservoirs, is a never-ending process or, as Stemler described it, "an annual and cyclical process." At the reservoirs, the District is mandated by law to attempt to reach recommended target pool elevations, better known as winter pool and summer pool. Every year during late fall/early winter, a process known as winter drawdown begins, whereby lake levels are reduced to a recommended level in order to provide extra storage capacity for spring rains and snow melt. Conversely, every year during late spring, the goal is to reach summer pool to provide recreation and water supply.

Typically, seasonal fluctuations on tributaries and reservoirs provide more headaches during the spring, as upstream and downstream entities often have conflicting interests. Heavy or unexpected rainfalls so prevalent during the spring only complicate matters. "We definitely have to be very observant of weather patterns in terms of precipitation," says Stemler. "River stage and lake level forecasts can change within hours; once water is released through a dam, you can't take it back."



African-American heroes helped shape the U.S. after the Civil War

Stories of heroic African-American soldiers who fought in the Civil War are well remembered. Some fought for the South, and some for the North. But little is known about their progress after the Civil War. Here are some personal histories to fill that gap of knowledge.

Robert Smalls, Naval hero and U.S. Congressman (1829-1915): Smalls was born a slave in Beaufort, S.C. He taught himself to read and write. In 1851, to learn the skills of a seaman, he signed on as a rigger in Charleston, S.C. During the Civil War, he smuggled his family onto a ship while the crew was on shore and sailed out to the Union Navy.

His daring escape brought Smalls into national prominence. He was granted a sum of money for the surrendered ship and was appointed a pilot in the U.S. Navy. Later, he was

promoted to captain for heroism in battle.

During Reconstruction, Smalls returned to South Carolina and was elected to several terms in state government offices, then to the U.S. House of Representatives where he served five terms.



Mifflin Wister Gibbs, Judge and United States Consul (1823-1918): Gibbs was born in Philadelphia, but migrated to San Francisco in 1849. There he operated a bootblack stand before forming a partnership with Peter Lister in a shoe firm on Clay Street.

A restless man, Gibbs migrated to Victoria, British Columbia, in 1858. There he established the first general store that was not connected with the Hudson Bay Company. He became an influential person and a councilman from the James Bay District. At the same time, he studied law with an English barrister, became a contractor, and built a railroad from the coal mines of Queen Charlotte to Skidgate Harbor.

By 1869, Gibbs had moved to Little Rock, Arkansas, where he studied at Oberlin College. He was admitted to the bar in 1870 and elected city judge in 1873. He held several positions for President Hayes and President Harrison before being named U.S. Consul to Madagascar in 1897.

The names of heroic and influential African Americans in history go on seemingly without end. These are just two who can make us proud to be Americans, one and all.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Fifteen years after Dr. King's death, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill into law making the third Monday of every January a national holiday, celebrating the birth and life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The first national celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday took place on January 20, 1986.

Prior to Dr. King, America had only honored two individuals with national holidays (George Washington and Christopher Columbus).

The holiday is a powerful tribute to King's philosophy and stature; and a day when we can honor Dr. King's principles, which are really American principles in their truest form. Dr. King was a husband, father and the leader of a movement that still transforms America and the world.

He was one of the twentieth century's most influential men.



Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia on January 15, 1929. His father was the minister of

the Ebenezer Baptist Church and also a civil rights leader. Martin Luther King, Jr. studied theology at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester Pennsylvania and at Boston University, where he received a doctorate in systematic theology in 1955. King decided, while completing his Ph.D. requirements, to accept the pastorate of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

His involvement with the civil rights movement began with the arrest of Mrs. Rosa Parks on December 1, 1955. Dr. King and the other community leaders felt a protest was needed. The African-American residents of the city were asked to boycott the bus company. The boycott lasted 381 days and was finally ended by the US Supreme Court who declared that Alabama's



state and local laws on segregation on buses were illegal. In 1957, in order to build on the success of the Montgomery boycott, Dr. King and some other southern black ministers founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) with Dr. King as their president. Along with the SCLC, Dr. King organized drives for African-American voter registration, desegregation and better education and housing throughout the South.

In May of 1958, Dr. King lead a mass march to the front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC. He had now become the undisputed leader of the civil rights movement. He wrote his first book, *Stride Toward Freedom*, which was a success. The following year, he went to India to study Gandhi's principle of nonviolent persuasion. At the end of 1959, he did

resign from Dexter and went back to Atlanta, which is where the SCLC was located and assisted his father as pastor of Ebenezer.

Continuing the fight for civil rights and to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, on August 28, 1963, 200,000 people gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial. Addressing the marchers, Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

King's renown grew as he became *Time* magazine's Man of the Year and in 1964, Dr. King was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize as someone who "had contributed the most to the furtherance of peace among men." Dr. King would divide the prize money among various civil rights organizations. Also that year, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law.

In the winter of 1965, Dr. King lead a march from Selma, Alabama to the state capital in Montgomery. The marchers were greeted by 25,000 supporters when they arrived. On August 6, 1965, a voting rights bill was passed allowing African-Americans to vote.

Dr. King continued his campaigning for world peace. He traveled across America to support and speak out on civil rights and the rights of the underprivileged. In April 1968, Dr. King went to Memphis, Tennessee to help the sanitation workers who were on strike. On April 3rd, Dr. King would give what would be his last speech. The following day (April 4, 1968), as he was leaving his motel room, Dr. King was shot and killed.

Valentine Legends Bring Romance to February 14

Each year on February 14, millions of cards decorated with lace, hearts, cupids, and flowers are exchanged. They are coveted by lovers and friends, husbands and wives, students and teachers, children and parents. Though it enjoys enormous popularity, the origin of Valentine's Day is obscured by mists of time and the mixing of history and legend.

The earliest historical convergence of romance and February comes from the pre-Christian holiday of Lupercalia. Some centuries later, February Juno became the festival of choice, at least in Rome. As part of this celebration, young women wrote love notes and put them in a large urn. Young men of Rome would draw the notes and then court the women whose messages they received.

The Christian church wanted to replace pagan holidays with new

religious celebrations. With the martyrdom of St. Valentine on February 14, St. Francis de Sales recognized a providential opportunity. He replaced the young women's love notes with the names of saints. People of all ages could play. They were supposed to emulate the virtues of the saint whose name they drew.



But romance wouldn't die, and it was furthered by the belief that birds chose their mates on February 14. And the legends of St. Valentine and his influence on lovers grew with each century.

In the Middle Ages, when few people could read or write, friends said or sang their valentines to each other. The day became especially popular in England and France. As people from those countries came to the New World, the custom came with them.

Cupid, of course, was a Roman contribution. In Roman mythology, Cupid is the son of Venus, goddess of love and beauty. He is still represented on valentines as a cherub armed with arrows.

To this day, you have to watch out for Cupid. Some people say he is still out there, especially on Valentine's Day. And his arrow is dipped in love potion!



How to keep teen drivers safe

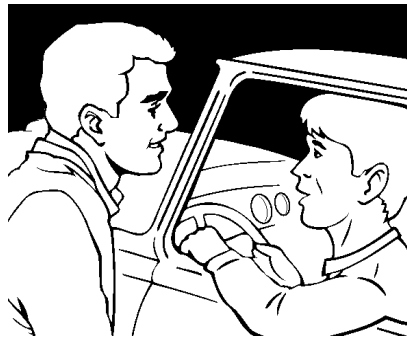
Teens are notorious risk-takers, says psychologist Michael Smith of the Nation Highway Safety Administration (NHSTA). But they may not consider the consequences of taking risks.

Speeding, for example, may not seem dangerous to teens. Car crashes, however, are the leading cause of death among Americans 16 to 19 years old. (Forty percent of these accidents are alcohol related.)

Thirty-four states and the District of Columbia have graduated licensing. Driving privileges are phased in through three stages while teen become more experienced. These states have experienced a 32 percent decline in crash rates among new drivers, according to NHSTA.

Here are some tips for parents:

- Don't give new drivers the right to drive alone at first. Be a passenger in the car until you are assured that he or she drives carefully and defensively.



- Don't allow new drivers to have other teens in the car, or limit them to one passenger. There will be less

chance of distraction or showing off.

- Practice night driving with your teen. Limit night driving until he or she has the skill to handle it and realizes that driving at night is more dangerous.
- Have zero tolerance for drinking and driving. New drivers will be less distracted at the wheel if they don't smoke.
- Insist on safety belt use.
- Be a good role model. Drive safely.

Finally, don't believe that your young driver can handle a car in all situations because he or she has passed driver's ed and now has a driver's license.

Your attention to his or her skill and appropriate restrictions could save the life of the child you love.

Creating a presentation 'work of art'

If you want to master the art of presentation, learn to paint your ideas in as few brush strokes as possible. Here are some tips on how to do it from New York-based Decker Communications.



First, you need to paint a clear picture of your main themes, keeping it as simple as possible. Tailor your presentation to the expectations of your audience, something many presenters fail to do. If your audience is focused on the bottom line, present your plan, then use reasoning and facts as support. If the audience is

detail-oriented, explain facts and research before presenting your recommendation or findings.

Before starting, check to see if your allotted amount of time has changes because previous presentations ran long. Be prepared to cut yours to meet time constraints. In other words, have two presentations ready: the original, and one that uses only a quarter of the time originally allotted.

Begin by establishing context, such as saying, "This is the second meeting to address the issues of..."

Avoid redundancy. Never restate your points until your closing. Encourage people to ask questions as they come up during your presentation. Each question is a sign that your audience is engaged.

To close, briefly recap your point of view, your recommendations, and the benefits of your plan. List conditions that will lead to successful results.

Olympic quiz

- 1 Which hero of the 1912 Olympics had his medals taken away on a charge of professionalism?
- 2 Which three Olympics were canceled because of wars?
- 3 What U.S. track star won four gold medals at Berlin in 1936, infuriating Hitler?
- 4 At which Olympics were two U.S. runners suspended after they raised clenched fists at a medal ceremony?
- 5 What tragedy occurred at the 1972 Munich Olympics?
- 6 Why were the '80 (Moscow) and '84 (L.A.) Games boycotted?



Answers on page 8



Groundhog Day: Phil and Jimmy get better with practice

If you are inclined to believe the prediction of a groundhog, you'll go better on February 2nd than believer did 20 years ago and before.

Whether you check a local critter, or rely on one of the more famous prognosticators like Punxsutawney Phil and Sun Prairie Jimmy, you have a 59 percent chance that the not-too-pretty creature will be right.

The National Climatic Data Center concludes that the animals' predictions since 1887 had an overall accuracy rate of just 39 percent. Over the last 20 years, however, they have become more skillful and have raised their average correctness by 20 percent. Nice going Phil and Jimmy.

Will it really change the world? Wildly publicized Segway to be available next year

This is it: the next new thing. Apple Computer's Steve Jobs says it's as big a deal as the PC. It could be bigger than the internet, according to John Doerr, the venture capitalist behind Netscape, Amazon.com, and now the Segway.

The self-propelled two-wheel "scooter" mimics the human body's ability to maintain its balance. Not only does it have no brakes, it has no engine, no throttle, no gearshift, and no steering wheel. It can carry the average rider for a full day, nonstop, for only five cents' worth of electricity.

Dean Karmen, the inventor, thinks the Segway will be to the car what the car was to the horse and buggy. He says it can go everywhere: in parks, on battlefields, on factory floors, but especially on downtown sidewalks.

Karmen is a rich bachelor who, according to Time, wears the same



Most of us have heard of Punxsutawney Phil of Punxsutawney, Penn. He started predicting in 1887. More recently, Sun Prairie, Wisc., a town that is rich in G-hogs, declared itself to the official "Groundhog Capital of the World" in 1950. Sun Prairie Jimmy and his predecessors have been on the job for 51 years.

outfit for every occasion: blue jeans, a blue work shirt, and boots. Among his inventions are the first drug-infusion pump, the first portable insulin pump, and the IBOT, a "wheelchair" that goes up and down steps and rises to eye level for conversation. Karmen says it's a sophisticated robot.

With the Segway, you lean forward, and you go forward; lean back, go back; and turn by twisting your wrist. It has gyroscopes that act like your inner ear to balance you, computers that act like your brain, and wheels that act like your feet. It's like having a pair of magic sneakers, says the inventor.

Industrial models will cost \$8,000. Cost for the consumer products will be \$3,000 to begin with. The young, sporty crowd may be the first to embrace the Segway, but others will surely follow.

Cities will love, them says Karmen. The machine is safe, clean, efficient, and maneuverable. It mixes easily with pedestrians. Being hit by one is like bumping into another pedestrian.

Should you remodel the house or tear it down?

Sometimes it pays to raze your home and build a new one. Is your house 80 or 100 years old, but in a location you love? Considering land values, you could be better off knocking it down rather than trying to remodel or buying a house somewhere else.

Tearing a house down makes sense if:

- The house is structurally unsound, has rotted beams, and antiquated wiring or plumbing.
- A renovation that solves all of its problems would be too expensive.
- The house is on a large or attractive lot and you like the location.
- The house is less valuable than others in the neighborhood.

Tearing down is a bad idea if the house has historical value or features that would be difficult to re-create. It's a bad idea if you can get updates you want with a modest renovation, or if you aren't sure you will stay long enough to justify the effort and expense of a teardown.

How the sales call zapper works

From the moment voices traveled over wire, it was inevitable that someone would send a sales pitch along with the greeting.

And so hated is the technique that all sorts of phone fences have sprung up over the years. The latest is the Telezapper.

The Telezapper works by emitting a brief, but rather jarring tone when you or your answering machine picks up the phone. The idea is that computers do most of the sales call dialing and the tone will fool the computer into thinking that the line is disconnected. Pretty good idea. According to the maker, Private Technologies, when computers hear this tone, they automatically delete your number from their call list.

Technology writers at The Los Angeles Times say the device may work well for computerized messages, but won't stop the human dialer.



The Way I Remember It

by Claude Strauser

On the 17th of December 2001, I received an email from Mr. Jack R. Niemi. He shared with me the sad news about the passing of Mr. Joe Fuhrman and the previous week the passing of Mr. Lee Briece.

I was saddened to learn about their passing and I shared this with several people in the office. I was surprised to learn how many people did not know of these two engineers and I thought I would share a few thoughts about them with the readers of the *Esprit*.

Lee Briece had a previous career (before the Corps) with the Missouri Highway Department. He took pride in the fact that he was responsible for the acquisition of the right-of-way for Highway 40 in the Gumbo flats, now known as Chesterfield Valley. I am sure he would not recognize the area today.

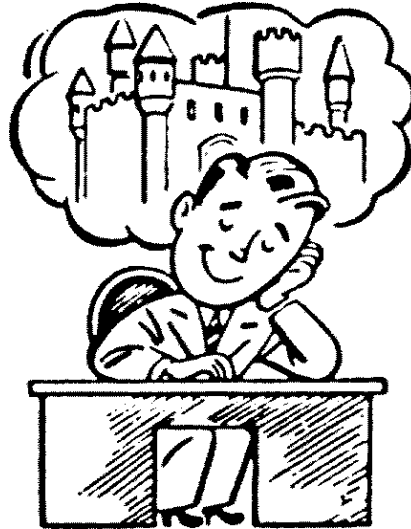
I called Mike Dace (former Project Coordinator for the Meramec Basin projects) and asked him for some information about Lee Briece. He remembers that Lee was the Meramec Basin Coordinator in the Project Planning Branch of the Engineering Division after the Survey Report was completed and the several projects were reformulated in 1966. After the enactment of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in 1969 and after the first Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Meramec Park Lake was challenged in court, Lee was the engineer made responsible and placed in charge of the environmental studies to revise the EIS and to provide the government lawyers with information to defend our work in the courts. The government won the court case and Lee retired sometime around 1975.

Just for the record, the way I remember it, Mr. Jake Baker was the Branch Chief of the Project Planning Branch,

Dale Modde was the Project Coordinator for the Clarence Cannon Dam Project, Rusty Williams was the

Project Coordinator for the Kaskaskia River Basin Project, and Newt Amos, followed by Carl Danzer, were the Project Coordinators for the St. Louis Flood Protection Project (the flood wall).

The other person I wanted all of us to acknowledge (and the older folks to remember) is Mr. Joe Fuhrman. When I came to the St. Louis District Joe was the Assistant Chief of the Foundations Branch. Joe was one of the most pleasant and thoughtful people I have ever met. Some of us affectionately called him Father Fuhrman (I don't think we ever said it to him personally).



As I remember it, Joe was the detail man for the Branch Chief who was then Mr. Sam Hoffman (who was followed by Bruce Moore). He attended most of the monthly coordination meetings and tried to keep everyone on schedule.

I remember one time when I was called to Joe's office. I was on the training program for Junior Engineers and he wanted to discuss something I had said or done (I don't remember the specifics). He discussed the matter with me for about 15 minutes. I remember thanking him for his advice and suggestions as I left his office. It was almost 3 days later before I realized he had given me a pretty stern lecture. He was such a nice man (with

a subtle and persuasive personality) I had thanked him for the reprimand and didn't realize it for several days.

Many years later he and I recalled this event and we both had a good laugh. I think Joe retired sometime around 1977.

Just for the record, the way I remember it, the branch secretary for the Foundations Branch was Neal Zinser, Dave Lytle was the Head of the Instrumentation Section, George Postol was the Head of the Soils Section, Tony Kochanski was the Head of the Materials Section, Howard Lovell was the Head of the Subsurface Exploration Section and Frank Signage, followed by John Albriton and Nels Jehren were the Heads of the Geology Section. (Note – in those days Section Chiefs were called Section Heads)

During this time period Walt Lawlor was the Chief of the Engineering Division and Max Lamm was the Assistant Chief of Engineering. Maggie Brooks was the Head of the Service Section and Joe Nichols was the Head of the Program Control Section. (This information came from a district telephone directory dated 1966 and supplied to me by Mr. Jack Niemi).

I am sure I have misspelled some names but that is the way I remember it!

Olympic Quiz Answers:

1. Jim Thorpe, who had received money for playing baseball.
2. 1916 (World War I); 1940 and 1944 (WWII).
3. Jesse Owens. By winning he showed that Germans were not the "master race."
4. 1968 in Mexico City. Tom Smith and John Carlos did it to protest racism.
5. Palestinian terrorists killed 11 Israeli athletes.
6. 1980, in protest of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. In 1984 Soviets retaliated claiming poor security arrangement.



Vans provide mobile emergency center

by Bernard Tate, HQUSACE

Years ago, in Tom Swift and His Flying Lab by Victor Appleton, the fictional inventor built a hardware-packed laboratory in a jet aircraft that carried him on his globe-trotting scientific adventures.



St. Louis District deploys our Rapid Response Vehicle to Herculaneum, MO., to provide an immediate response for the USEPA. Real Estate personnel reacted quickly to implement a temporary/voluntary relocation program for residents whose properties are contaminated due to lead smelter operations in the area. Residents are being relocated to allow for cleanup of yards and house interiors.

The Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) isn't as dramatic as Tom Swift's Flying Lab, but the concept is the same — a vehicle packed with the equipment needed to put a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers team into action at an emergency site in 18 hours or less. "In an emergency, if you're not organized and running smoothly from the beginning, you've got a mess," said Charlie Kemp, an information management specialist from Mobile District. Kemp, along with Eugene Bentz and David Fultz from Mobile District, manned the RRV displayed at Corps Headquarters Feb. 17-18. A fleet of Rapid Response Vehicles will be placed around the country to serve as field operating centers during emergencies.

The RRV is part of the Deployable Tactical Operations System (DTOS) which will give Corps teams an edge in dealing with the chaos of a disaster.

An RRV is an International Harvester chassis and engine with a custom-built 36-foot-long body which can accommodate a staff of seven people or more. Its equipment includes laptop computers, office software, global position system equipment, digital cameras, phone and intercom system, satellite communications,

cellular phone, radios (HF, VHF, and CB), drafting and mapping software, and wireless capability to network laptops within 200 feet of the RRV.

An RRV is completely self-contained with a bathroom, microwave oven, coffeepot, refrigerator, water tank, and an onboard 15-kilowatt generator. They are designed to last 15-20 years and are solidly built with heavy-gauge aluminum, industrial-grade floors, and cabinets built of solid oak and three-quarter-inch thick plywood. "The RRVs are the jack-rabbits," said Kemp. "They can cruise at 70 miles a hour on the road. With one of these, a Corps team can arrive at a disaster site in 18 hours or less and be ready to go to work 45 minutes to an hour after they arrive."

There will be six RRVs, one each in Baltimore, Los Angeles, Portland, Fort Worth, St. Louis, and Nashville districts. Besides the RRVs, DTOS

includes six Emergency Tactical Operations Centers (ETOCs), trailers 37 feet long equipped as mobile offices. Each "set" will have a pair of ETOCs to provide work space for up to 30 people, and two Freightliner trucks to pull them. They will each be supported by an Emergency Communications Vehicle (similar to the RRV except with more communication capability), and an Emergency Support Vehicle to carry tools, office supplies, and whatever else the Corps team will need. An ETOC set will be placed in Sacramento District, and two sets in Mobile District. In addition, DTOS includes three Fly-Away Kits. The kits have the same equipment as the ETOCs, but packaged in containers and located in Honolulu, Jacksonville, and Japan Engineering districts for deployment outside the U.S.

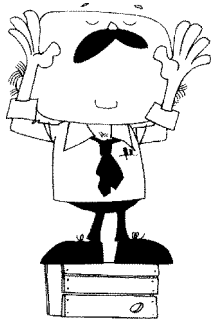
DTOS is a quantum leap in the Corps' ability to respond to an emergency, according to Kemp, a veteran of hurricanes Mitch, Fran, Bertha, and Opal. "We had three business-type trailers," said Kemp. "They did the job, but they were really slow. We'd have breakdowns or blow-outs every 200 miles. They had to be towed to the site, and they didn't even have a bathroom. Previously, each district was doing its own thing and none of it really worked together. Now we have compatibility and common equipment throughout the Corps. Someone from Los Angeles can deploy to a disaster in Baltimore District and work out of their RRV without retraining.

"But it's not the equipment that does the job, it's the people," Kemp continued. "Without good, qualified people, you're in trouble." Each district with an RRV will train a pool of people to deal with the disasters that are likely to strike that region.

When an emergency occurs, the district leadership will select a Logistics Emergency Response Team to deploy with the RRV to handle the situation.



Around the District



Wappapello Lake



Redman Creek West campground: Roger Brown, Engineering Technician, at Wappapello Lake removes asphalt from existing campsite pads.



Justin Montgomery was happy to participate in the goose hunt for the Physically Challenged. It was held January 12 in the Peoples Creek Campground. This was a cooperative effort between the Corps of Engineers and the Missouri Department of Conservation.



Justin Buchanan and Terry Whitmer stack barbecue grills removed from campsites at the Redman West Campground. Improvements will include the addition of water and sewer sites plus upgrades to the electrical service.



We extend a permanent welcome to Kathy Dickson. She's now a park ranger. She created Willie B. Safe and his friends for the lake.

Carlyle Lake



Carlyle Lake recognizes one of its own

The St. Louis District dedicated the new administration building in honor of former Lake Manager Al LeGrand. His years of dedicated service were vital to the project and community relations.



Honorable Jerry F. Costello gave a few remarks



Lake Manager Robert Wilkins and Walter Feld, Chief Construction-Operations Division watch as District Engineer COL Michael Morrow presents Mr. LeGrand a Commander's Award for his years of dedicated service.



A room filled with friends, family and dignitaries greeted Mr. LeGrand.

Carlyle Lake will host Celebrate the Earth 2002 on April 26, 2002

The purpose of this event is to help students understand, make educated decisions and appreciate the environment. There will be 2,000 students participating from Kindergarten through 8th grade from local school's. Celebrate the Earth will consist of students going from station to station throughout the day to learn about the environment.

The events are geared to age groups. Our partners of this event are: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Natural History Survey, Natural History Education Company, St. Louis Science Center, World Bird Sanctuary, St. Louis Zoo and the St. Louis Herpetology Society.

Mark Twain Lake Women In the Outdoors

by Mary.A.Heitmeyer

"Women in the Outdoors" is a great new event at Mark Twain Lake that will provide women the opportunity to learn outdoor skills. Event topics may include orienteering, skeet shooting, pistols, canoeing, photography, wild edibles, archery, crafts, camping, and turkey calling. Other sessions may include, fish/fowl cleaning, herb gardening, fly fishing, muzzleloading, and Dutch-oven cooking as well as many others. The best part is no experience is necessary! Expert instructors guide you through hands-on practice.

The event, co-sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be held in the Warren G. See South Spillway Recreation Area at Mark Twain Lake, on July 20, 2002. Organizers are seeking interested women, ages 14 and up, to participate. If the topics listed above sound interesting, this event is for you. You may call the Mark Twain Lake Project Office at (573) 735-4097 or email Mary.A.Heitmeyer@mvs02.usace.army.mil to get on the event mailing list or if you have questions.



Rend Lake



Help Save the Earth and Have Fun While Doing it!

By Tim Bischoff

Looking for a great reason to get out of the office for two days and have a fun time? Do you like to see that light bulb come on as a child's eyes show that he just "got it"? If helping students understand the world around them sounds interesting, then being a presenter at the Rend Lake Earth Day 2002 Celebration is what you need to do:

On May 2nd and 3rd, Rend Lake will hold the annual celebration for Earth Day at the Rend Lake Visitor Center. We celebrate in a big way at the lake. We invite 2,000 students each day to experience several programs on environmental topics ranging from Archeology to Zoology. Corps employees have given presentations on wetlands, applied river engineering, archeology, waterfowl, nature hikes, bees, environmental games, oceans, and several other wonderful topics. If you have an area of interest and want to help, but don't have the supplies, talk to Mike Edwards or Tim Bischoff and see what programs they can provide for you.

So, you can't wait to be a presenter? As a presenter, you will give 5 half-hour programs on the topics of their choice. The first half-hour program begins at 9:30 a.m., so you will need to be at the Rend Lake Visitor Center by 8:30 a.m., or earlier if needed, to set up. Presenters give five sessions that will end at 1:35 p.m. on each day. You will also get a break to have a scrumptious lunch that will be provided for the presenters. Thursday's programs will be geared towards kindergarten through third grade students. On Friday, we invite the fourth through eighth grades to attend.

How do I get registered as a presenter for this fun event? To become a presenter at the Rend Lake Earth Day 2002 Celebration, merely contact Latissua Tyler if you are in the District Office or Rend Lake Park Ranger Mike Edwards and they will supply you with an invitation and presenter outline. Please fill out the outline and mail, fax, or e-mail it to Ranger Edwards at the Rend Lake

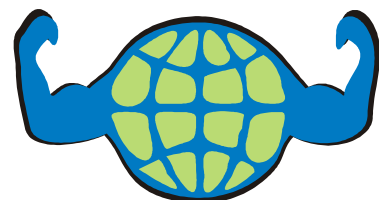
Project Office. If you have questions or need further information, feel free to contact Tim Bischoff or Mike Edwards at (618) 724-2493.

104 Birds Tallied at Rend Lake

Keith McMullen and Craig Litteken, CO-F, along with Natural Resource Specialist Ray Zoanetti and Park Rangers Randy Cordray and Jon Schulte, CO-B, tallied 104 species of birds wintering at Rend Lake during the annual Christmas Bird Count at Rend Lake on 15 December 2001. The objective is to count every species of bird found within a 15 mile area centered on the count area and to count the number of individuals birds as well.

Assisting in the effort were six volunteers, Frank Bennett, Anne Bothe, Cathie Hutcheson, Dan Kassebaum, Steve Olson and Leonard Stanley, many of whom volunteer their services every year. Among the rare birds, or ones that are unusual for this time of year were least sandpiper, lesser black-backed gull, American bittern, Caspian tern, Virginia rail, pine warbler, red-throated loon and American woodcock.

The count has been held at Rend Lake, on and off again, for at least twenty years. Nationwide, this was the 102nd count. The first count was held in 1900 in New York City. The data, now available on-line, provides information on population trends, species abundance and habitat preference.





Lake Shelbyville



Prize winning photo taken at Lake Shelbyville Our very own Pam Doty tied for 1st place in the *Corps Employees in Action* category of the Water Safety Program Photo Contest. This was a Corps-wide contest held during the spring and summer of last year.

The photo was taken during the *Kids Fishing Tournament* right here at Lake Shelbyville. The ranger in the photo name is Ben Havens, a summer employee. The kid's name is Trisha Bell. She was participating in the



Pam Doty

Pam explains.

"I was just the one behind the camera that day and had the opportunity to

tournament Ben is helping remove her catch. I used was a 35mm Canon Rebel. Film used was 100-speed slide film. I am no expert photographer by any means.

take the picture, and did. What I am trying to say is that if I can take a picture that places in a photo contest anybody can. The people that work at the field projects for the Corps of Engineers probably run across photo opportunities a lot. It comes down to being in the right place at the right time and the most important factor is having the equipment with you to take the picture, so my advise to everyone is that the next time that you head to the field don't forget your camera." [ED note:] The Canon Rebel is one of a number of modern entry-level cameras. You don't need thousands of dollars worth of expensive photographic equipment to take terrific photos. Take your camera with you. It won't take those memorable family photos gathering dust in the hall

Lock 25



January 14th, the St. Louis District's own M/V Pathfinder, M/V Grand Tower and the floating crane Sewell join forces to lift a one-hundred ton temporary upstream gate onto a barge. Service Base personnel have been busy refurbishing the original gates which will now return to service.



December Employee of the Month

Dawn Kovarik was recognized for her coordination of the Corps-State Natural Resource Directors Conference held at Rend Lake 1-3 Oct 01.

She was responsible for receiving, setting up and returning the displays from other districts and the states. She coordinated all the graphics, purchased needed materials, put together power point presentations and coordinated equipment needs. She worked long hours before and during the conference which was characterized by many as "the best ever." Dawn's abilities, attitude and hard work were a primary factor in this success.

Her efforts reflected well on the District and were noticed by all of the attendees including USACE Division Commander of Lakes and Rivers Division and the head of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. For these superior efforts Ms. Kovarik has been chosen *Employee of the Month for December 2001*.

When the War Comes Home

North Korea is on the verge of implosion. Food shortages, a depressed economy and a restless population spawn a desperate plan to retake not only South Korea, but to plunge the United States and China into a major conflict. The world is on the brink of total disaster, and only US Army Corps of Engineers employee Brick Revloc is in a position to stop it. The climax of this story unfolds in the pages of *Adak*, an action/adventure novel written by Gregg Kocher, under the pen name, Burke Toliver. Gregg, a safety specialist in ED-P who once had his life saved by PA's Chuck Camillo, joins Roger Hayes in the category of published authors within the St. Louis District. The story is part autobiographical and part high-tech, super-charged escapism. It was written not to be an epic novel, but to provide a fast-paced read for the businessperson on the go.



The idea for the book emerged after Gregg and a team from (ED-P) traveled to Adak Island in the Aleutian chain to conduct a site investigation. This island is so remote and inhospitable, it seemed a natural choice for men from different worlds to clash in a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse. "Adak is known as 'the birthplace of the winds.' It is so miserable, that it truly qualifies as The Last Place God Made. It took a three-hour flight from Anchorage, then a five-hour tugboat ride to get there. We were miserable most of the time out there," says Gregg.

Gregg has had a hankering to become a writer for many years, but the road to actually getting published was a bumpy one.

"I tried going the traditional route of obtaining a literary agent to represent me, and actually signed contracts with two different agents, but they did nothing for me, so it came down to pursuing self-publishing," Gregg explains.

Adak is published by 1stBooks Library and is currently available on their website, 1stBooks.com. In about three weeks it will be available on Amazon.com, Borders.com and Barnes & Noble's website, BN.com.



January Employees of the Month

Kirk and Jennifer James were selected for their activities in support of the Army at the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point.

They supported the U. S. Army Aviation and Missile Command as Corps of Engineers employees in support of the U.S. Army's prepositioned munitions program. From October 2000 through July 2001, they supported the unloading of three vessels containing 60, 000 short tons of break-bulk munitions to containerized loads on new container roll on / out platforms.

The containerized munitions provide the war fighter with an improved platform for delivery to the field. The James' are Quality Assurance Specialists in Ammunition

Surveillance and work in the Ordnance and Technical Services Branch of Engineering Division.

They spent 10 months on TDY working seven days per week and usually 12 hour days to unload, inspect, repackage, and reload the new ships.

Their mission consisted of the planning and oversight of the effort by contractors, U.S. Army civilians and military personnel including Navy and Army enlisted men and officers.

Congratulations, Kirk and Jennifer!



Retiree's Corner



The Retirees had their monthly luncheon on January 17th at the Salad Bowl. They all remarked that it was another day without snow and a day closer to April, when normally the snow season is over. Funny how as we grow older, we find snow less enjoyable. When we were young we looked forward to snow for all the fun of snow games. The cold and wet that goes along with the snow never seemed to bother us. Now we are more mature and unsure of our footing as well as uncomfortable with the cold.

This is true at least until the grandkids show up and want to play in the snow. Then we forget our age and again enjoy the grandkids and the snow.

Lew Scheuermann said that he received a call from the Bakers thanking him for his efforts in making their wedding anniversary such a successful surprise. Thankfully, they had the party before the last month's *Esprit* was received. It didn't spoil the surprise. Lew also mentioned that he received a call from Estelle Huizenga saying that she is doing well and had a great holiday season.

Larry McCarthy said that he recently visited the District Office and heard that Regina Pucel had retired in early January. Welcome to your new career, Regina. She had spent a number of years in the Contracts area of Procurement Office. Larry also donated a "Valuable Attendance" prize and asked that it be awarded at

the end of the luncheon.

Laurel Nelson said that she had recently heard from Kathryn Crossley and that she was enjoying retirement. Kathryn was the one that kept the former Public Affairs Officer, Ken Long, and his staff on the straight and narrow, like all secretaries do for their boss.

Don Wampler mentioned that he had spoken to Bob Maxwell recently and that Bob was unable to attend the luncheon. Seems that Bob is involved with a men's organization in the complex where he lives and they meet on the same day of the Retirees Luncheon. The retirees felt that Bob was probably needed at the men's group to add some maturity to any discussions. Bob, by the way is the retirees most "celebrated senior citizen", since he has seniority on all retirees.

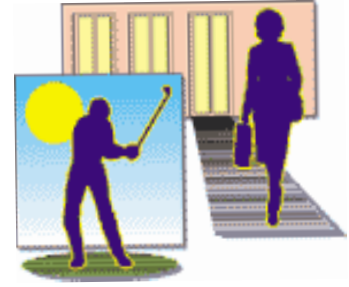
John and Elsie Kalafatich were celebrating the fact that John had his cast removed from his wrist. John said that he is doing rehab to develop flexibility so that he can get to play some golf, but without the cast he no longer qualifies for TLC from Elsie. (She is tough) John now has to fend for himself.

Sandi Dombi brought and circulated some photos that he had taken at the Christmas luncheon. The retirees have to be careful with Sandi and his camera. You may be caught in a compromising situation, as one retiree said, with food in your mouth.

The attendance prize was won by, of all people, Larry McCarthy. Congratulations Larry. Hope you and Sharon enjoy it.

The February luncheon will be on February 21, at the Salad Bowl at about 11:00am. Hope to see you there.

Retirement: When he does, she doesn't



It's not unusual for the age gap between husband and wife to be 10 years, 20 years or more. Financial planners say the age difference calls for an unconventional retirement plan. Here is what they advise:

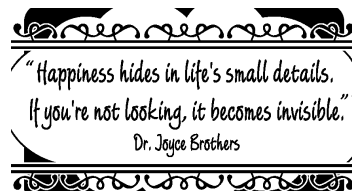
- *Insurance.* A couple approaching retirement might normally reduce their life insurance coverage because their children are now adults. But if a family will depend on the younger partner's earnings, that could be a reason to increase coverage instead.

Both partners should consider buying long-term care insurance.

- *Pension planning.* These couples have to make decisions about how to manage their pension money earlier than couples who are the same age. With a younger spouse, the couple might have higher costs for a longer period of time. They must anticipate cash-flow requirements and decide how to fund the expenses. Planners writing in *Business Week* say the younger partner should keep at least 60 percent of savings in stocks.

The older partner should leave 401(k) money in the company plan. After age 55 it can be withdrawn at will without penalties. With a rollover IRA, a retiree younger than 59 ½ has to follow a strict withdrawal plan or pay a penalty.

New IRS rules work to their advantage. They can choose a payout schedule that sets up a withdrawal plan based on the younger partner's life expectancy. That allows the money to last longer.



Last Century



[Answers from photo published in last month's *Esprit*]

Seated on floor: Ron Singleton, Ed Middleton, Roger Siller and Ronald Bockhorst, **Second row:** Christy Huskey, Dee Ann Chambers, Kathy Hayes, Vivian Arthur, Debbie Kuhlmann, Hazel Schnatzmeyer, Shirley Johnson, Betty Joe Yucker, Harold [Barney] Barnhardt. **Third row:** standing, Jack Rhodes, Deborah Davis, Sheila Rodriguez, Linda Moore, Lucy Schultz, Shirley Bledsoe, Sharon Hronback, Shirley Barnes, Arthur [Art] Taylor, Sharon Ward, Freddie Watson, Harleen Tillerson. **Back row:** Jack Eckles, Charlie Brooks, Richard Anderson, Vanessa Alexander, Warren Jones, Ed Pucel, Ron Auvenshine, Ron Jones, Bob Alder, Jerry Gray, and Russ Elliott

Coming soon: slices of peanut butter

Tired of peanut butter that tears the bread when you spread it? Want to skip washing peanut-buttered spoons and knives, but you still want the kids to get the sticky stuff's nutritional benefits? Help is on the way.

Oklahoma entrepreneur Stewart Kennedy says he and a team of food researchers at Oklahoma State University have perfected a formula for individually wrapped peanut butter slices. After trying over 400 formulas and working on the project for three years, they are test marketing their peanut butter slices in selected stores around the U.S. If individually wrapped cheese slices made such a hit, can peanut butter slices be far behind?

20 GB in your shirt pocket?

While computer monitors get larger and cheaper, hard drives are getting so small that some literally fit into your shirt pocket.

One of the new generation of tiny hard drives is the Pockey Portable Drive, with a whopping 20 GB of hard drive space. Selling retail for just under \$300, this sort of technology could be a great way to transport digital photos, or just backup your computer or laptop hard drive.

For more information, see technoscount.com

[Do you have an photo you're willing to share? *Esprit* needs your help. Rummage for those old pics! Challenge your coworkers! All originals will be returned.]